

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 7.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and newly added 13 should read as follows:

1.(twice amended) A layered composite useful for flooring coverings and wall panels with

at least one decorative surface and consisting essentially of a backing layer of a reinforced thermoplastic polymer which is not polypropylene, a decorative layer arranged thereupon and a heat-cured layer applied to the decorative layer wherein the total thickness of the layered composite is from 1 to 20 mm and whose backing layer makes up at least 80% of the thickness wherein said reinforced thermoplastic polymer comprises polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyesters, polycarbonates, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyamide, polyurethane, a polyacetal and/or polystyrenes,

which layered composite is prepared by

heating said reinforced thermoplastic polymer to at least 180°C in an extruder and then,

under a pressure of at least 80N/cm², introducing said heated reinforced thermoplastic polymer into an injection molding chamber of an injection-molding machine into which the films for the decorative layer and the heat cured layer and an optional heat-cured layer and/or an intermediate layer,

applying to the layers in the injection-molding machine a holding pressure of at least 10 N/cm²,

while maintaining said pressure, cooling to a temperature not below 60°C for a period of not more than 4 minutes, and then removing the layered composite from the injection-molding chamber.

2.(amended) A layered composite as claimed in claim 1, where a decorative layer and a heat-cured layer applied to the decorative layer are present on each side of the backing layer made from said thermoplastic polymer reinforced thermoplastic polymer.

3.(amended) A layered composite as claimed in claim 1, where an intermediate layer is also inserted as bonding material between the backing layer and the decorative layer.

4.(amended) A layered composite as claimed in claim 1 and comprising a polystyrene backing layer.

8.(amended) A layered composite as claimed in claim 1, where the decorative layer is composed of a polymeric material which has an embossment or a coloration or a combination of both, or of paper or of a fabric or of a paper-like or fabric-like or wood-like material.

9.(amended) A layered composite as claimed in claim 1, where the heat-cured layer arranged on the decorative layer is composed of a thermosetting polymeric material, crosslinked by exposure to pressure or heat during the production of the layered composite.

13.(newly added) A layered composite as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reinforcing material of the reinforced thermoplastic polymer comprises barium sulfate, magnesium hydroxide, talc, wood, flax, chalk, glass fibers or glass beads.